

DECISION NOTICE:
Fish Wildlife & Parks Maintenance and Host Site Improvement Project
Pictograph Cave State Park

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Pictograph Cave State Park
3401 Coburn Road
Billings, MT 59102
10/17/14

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to remove the current storage shed and pump house and relocate all equipment and utilities to a new 12'x24'pre-fabricated storage shed placed on a new concrete pad. This preferred alternative would provide adequate space and a safer, more functional and secure building for the parks tools and equipment, while not detracting from the aesthetic values of the park.

The two host sites would be renovated to provide for a more functional, size adequate, and dedicated setting for the host's RV and vehicles. Electricity would be routed to the storage shed and host pad sites pedestals to provide a safer connection and reduce any public safety hazards or code compliance issues. The presence of hosts on park grounds acts as a deterrent to anyone who may try to vandalize or disturb Pictograph Cave State Park's important archeological resources.

The project will be completed in phases starting with \$20,000 in funds currently allocated.

PUBLIC PROCESS AND COMMENT

The public comment period for the draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed project began September 3, 2014 and ended October 3, 2014. The Environmental Assessment was posted on the Montana State's website and distributed to individuals known to have an interest in the project in the Billings area and statewide. No public comments were received during the public comment period.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

If no action is taken the equipment that is currently stored outside covered on pallets will continue to be subjected to vandalism, the natural elements as well as adverse effects from small animals including; mice, prairie dogs, rattlesnakes and yellow bellied marmots. This causes a costly and rapid deterioration of the states equipment which currently includes; Polaris OHV, Craftsman snow blower and riding lawn mower all which are too large to fit in the existing structure. There is also the issue of site security; Pictograph Cave contains cave paintings and many

valuable artifacts that go unmonitored outside the parks hours of operation. A gate is locked 2 miles above the park but many people still place bikes over the gate and ride or walk in during closed hours. Without a suitable host pad providing reliable basic utilities and a sense of privacy to the parks hosts, it is more difficult to retain a host at the park. Appearance of the area is also a consideration as the current structures lie within the view shed below the parks visitor center.

DECISION

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the applicable laws, regulations and policies, I have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the natural or human environment. The Environmental Assessment becomes the final decision for FWP to proceed with the improvement of the host site/maintenance area at Pictograph Cave State Park. Please direct any further requests or questions to Doug Habermann, Region Five Park Manager, or Jarret Kostuba, Pictograph Cave State Park Manager.

/S/ Douglas D Habermann

10/17/14

Signature: Douglas D Habermann Eastern Region Park Manager

Date